

AARA Newsletter



Alcatel Amateur Radio Association

Club website: www.qsl.net/w5vv

April/May 2004 AARA, m/s PB7-AARA, 3400 W Plano Parkway, Plano, TX 75075

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Next Meeting:

May 25th 5:30 p.m. PB11-1204 (NEW LOCATION) southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Independence.

Program: Charles Penry, WA5VHU/ YI9VHU fresh back from a stint with Halliburton in Iraq. He will share some photos and stories of his work trip, plus some Ham Radio Experiences.

What's New?

Some exciting topics discussed at the May board meeting are:

- 1. New meeting room in PB11.
- 2. AARA receives funding for 2004.
- 3. HF antenna operation imminent.
- 4. Field Day in our new clubroom.
- 5. Training classes may use the "Getting Your Ham Radio License in One Day" program.

6. New Repeater almost ready.

This issue mostly catches up on publishing the minutes from the last two months. We'll be trying a few changes to the format and presentation of the newsletter. We'd welcome articles of ham interest or anyone wishing to try their hand as newsletter editor.

Upcoming Events

22 May 2004, Hamfest, Temple ARC, Belton, TX http://www.tarc.org/

29-30 May 2004, CQ WW WPX Contest, CW

5 June 2004, Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure, Alcatel campus 6:00am - 10:30am kr1zan@arrl.net

12-14 June 2004, ARRL June VHF QSO Party, <u>www.arrl.org</u>

18-19 Jun 2004, **Ham-Com**, West Gulf Division Convention http://www.hamcom.org
Note that you can now pre-register on line at the above web site!

26-27 June 2004, ARRL Field Day www.arrl.org

Minutes of the AARA March 2004 General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, March 23, 2004

Alcatel, PB7-10073, 3400 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX

The meeting was called to order at 1736 CT by President Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN. Also present were acting Secretary Ernie Brouwer, KD5MFE,

Diane Brouwer, KD5MFD, Al Koch, KB5VSL, Mark Dempsky, N5MD, Bill Swan, K5MWC, VP OPS Clarence Sebesta, K5YO, Eric Wolf, KG4VPV, Exec VP Miguel Ylagan, KC5FEJ, Bill Hammon, KA5SOT, and Keith Parris, WB5RBA.

SECRETARY'S REPORT: The minutes of the February 2004 GMM were published in the Feb/Mar Newsletter. Al MOVED that the minutes be accepted as published. Clarence SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT: There was no income since last month and expenses totaled \$44.42. Miguel MOVED that the report be accepted for audit. Ernie SECONDED. The motion PASSED.

VP OPERATIONS' REPORT:

Mark mentioned that Facilities is again balking at having antennas installed on the roof, claiming concerns for interference. They'll move the HF antenna and we'll wait to see how it goes before requesting more.

Mark also mentioned that to comply with the electrical code, we need to make adapter cables with breakers for the 220V outlets in the clubroom. He found the parts at Lowe's and estimates a cost of ~\$50. Therefore Mark MOVED that the membership authorize up to \$75 for purchase of materials to assemble a 220V 30A to 20A adapter with circuit breaker. Ernie SECONDED. The motion PASSED.

Frank mentioned regarding the repeater that the remote base appears fully fixed; the monitoring signals are 70% checked out; and the rx/tx PL is working on both repeaters. Expecting a full performance check in about two weeks.

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Clarence mentioned his plan to do a full inventory, once the non-employee access mechanism was in place.

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT:

April 27, Jim Haynie will be the speaker at the joint TC meeting at MCI and will discuss the current status of BPL, license class restructuring, etc.

AARA training courses will be registered internal to Alcatel. Miguel will furnish Ernie (or Eric) information for inclusion on the Web site. Miguel will also investigate holding the classes in Alcatel training rooms.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

Progress is being made on nonemployee access. Forms were distributed to interested parties.

Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure is coming up -- June 5 6:00am - 10:30am.

OLD BUSINESS:

none

NEW BUSINESS:

Frank MOVED that the AARA reaffirms its interest in Venturing Crew 73, a teen-aged, co-ed unit of the Boy Scouts of America, and directs its Board of Directors to enter an agreement with Circle Ten Council of the Boy Scouts of America to be the Chartered Organization, or Sponsor, for Venturing Crew 73. Ernie SECONDED. After some brief discussion including some history on the Crew's sponsorship and a note that the only budget impact to the AARA is a \$20 recharter fee (typically paid by the Crew), the motion PASSED.

Since Ernie left Alcatel, we've needed a new Secretary to take over his duties. Thus Clarence resigned as Vice President of Operations to accept an appointment, by Frank, to the office of Acting-Secretary effective immediately. Frank also appointed Mark Dempsky to the office of Acting-Vice President of Operations, also effective immediately.

ANNOUNCEMENTS: none

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Miguel, MOVED that the meeting be adjourned. Ernie SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED and the meeting was adjourned at 1824 CT.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Brouwer, KD5MFE, acting Secretary

Minutes of the April 2004 AARA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, April 13, 2004 Alcatel, PB7 Club room, 3400 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX

OPENING AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 1733h CT April 13, 2004, in the Alcatel PB7 AARA clubroom. Present President Frank Krizan. KR1ZAN, Executive Vice President Miguel Ylagan, KC5FVJ, Acting Vice President of Operations Mark Dempsky, N5MD. and acting Secretary Clarence Sebesta, K5YO. Visiting was Ernie Brouwer, KD5MFE..

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes for the March BoD meeting were published in the newsletter. Outgoing secretary Ernie Brouwer gave the acting secretary a corrected copy. Ernie was asked to read any action items for use later in the meeting. Clarence MOVED the minutes be approved and Miguel

SECONDED. The minutes were APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer was away on business but submitted the current financial statement. There was only income of \$54 added and no expenses. The report showed that there was a pending check, which Frank has notified Al that it has been deposited. Frank and Mark have submitted expenses. Frank reported that Alcatel has agreed to funding for the year. Frank is checking into the status of the check. The club will reconcile against actual budget expenses at the end of the year. Financial report was submitted for audit.

VP OPERATION'S REPORT

Repeater: Work continues on getting the new repeater up and running. See the president's report for repeater status.

HF Station: The 220 Volt 30 amp to 220 Volt 20 amp adapter is done. The transformer is being checked to see if will work with the HF amplifier. The Butternut Vertical has been moved. Maintenance is working on providing a shorter cable.

VHF / UHF Station: The installation for the VHF / UHF antennas are on hold. Maintenance wants to make sure the HF antenna isn't causing any interference before the VHF / UHF antennas are installed.

General: Maintenance is reviewing its lightning protection for PB-7. Mark will try to work with maintenance to make sure are future antenna installation are taken into account.

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT

Future Programs: Contacting Rick Asbury for Amateur TV, John Dossey for North Texas Balloon Project and Kris Mraz for Software Radio.

Training: Working to get AARA license classes listed by training. Needing course length, Frank indicated that his were 8 week for 2.5

hour sessions (20 hours). Will start off with technician class only. The general class course should be delayed until the new FCC rules become known.

Miguel asked if we want to do 'Brown Bag' sessions. Some thoughts were general introduction to ham radio. Frank recommended using the ARRL "Ham Radio Today" video with Cronkite. Walter Also Frank mentioned his general ham radio introduction that was part of his presentation for the shuttle recovery. Also Frank suggested a program for methods of personal radio emergency communication or communication.

Other thoughts were doing a program close to the Komen race to improve visibility. The club gets a lot of recognition for its help with the Komen race. Frank suggested a photo in the company newsletter.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

- 1. Board re-alignment: Mark Dempsky, N5MD, now the Vice-President, Operations (Acting) Clarence Sebesta, K5YO, now the Secretary (Acting) This realignment was necessitated by the resignation of Ernie Brouwer, KD5MFE, as Secretary. Mark has been doing a significant amount of work on the Club Room and roof mounted antennas. He expressed an interest in the VP-Ops job. Clarence resigned as VP-Ops and was kind enough to accept the job as Secretary (Acting). election will be held at the GMM on Tues.,Apr. 27. 2004
- 2. Susan G. Komen Race will again take place on the Alcatel campus on Saturday, June 5th. The AARA has been asked to provide amateur radio communications to support the Race. We will once again set up the NCS in the main Security Room in PB7. Coax for two VHF/UHF antennas was left in place from last year.

Mark Dempsky and I have been attending the planning meetings in PB12 (as called by Scott Seale). Alcatel, Komen and Security were extremely pleased with the professional exhibited last year. We will start at 6 a.m. on June 5th and be through by Noon. Most operators will be released around 10 a.m. About 36 operators are needed.

- 3. Venturing Crew 73 is now officially chartered by the AARA. This action was approved at the March, 2004 GMM. Mark Dempsky is the Crew Committee Chairman and the Chartered Organization Representative. I am the Advisor and, as President, the Institutional Head. We have received the Charter for 2004.
- 4. New Repeater nearing completion. The new repeater is almost finished and should be capable of being moved over to UTD in early May, 2004. Problems with power supply wiring have been corrected. All of the pre-programmed remote base frequency requests have verified, except for 220 MHz. Last night (4/12/04) we found a possible problem with the auto-patch. Next Monday we plan to try all the features of the auto-patch and the 220 MHz frequencies. I will visit the UTD site to ensure everything's still OK and what access we can possibly get during non-business hours.

OLD BUSINESS

Training. Continuing the discussion from Miguel's report on training classes, it was noted that the ARRL Online training course was \$139 for non-members. This is too expensive for most and our training would be a fraction of that cost to the individual. It was suggested that we buy the \$99 video course and recover it through course fees. It was suggested to offer the course using three-tier pricing (member, employee, non-employee). Student should buy his or her own

books. Frank would be interested in helping the instructor in any way.

NEW BUSINESS

CQ Magazine Photographer in town during May Magazine would like photograph our Club Room/Station during a visit to Dallas in May. The photographs are planned for a future calendar or similar publication. Phil Salas, AD5X, suggested to the publisher that photographs be taken of the Telecom Corridor Clubs that have Ham Stations. The stations don't have to be operational, but need to look useable.

Frank MOVED that Board of Directors approve inviting CO magazine to photograph the AARA clubroom pursuant to appropriate approval from security and community relations. Miguel SECONDED the motion. Motion APPROVED. Frank will get back with Phil for further details.

Unescorted access to PB7 AARA Clubroom

Frank MOVED that the AARA Board of Directors approve unescorted access to the clubroom in PB7 for the following members:

Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN
Clarence Sebesta, K5YO
Ernie Brouwer, KD5MFE
Eric Wolf, KG4VPV
Bill Hammon, Jr., KA5SOT
Nancy Krizan, K5NCK
Clyde Heath, K5NCH
Miguel SECONDED the motion.
Frank said he verified that all

application were completed satisfactorily. On the question of working for another company, the first statement is an agreement that there is no conflict of interest. The form contains enough information about the individual and to also show contact information (in case he took home the clubroom key home). The motion was APPROVED. Frank will submit the names to Security and notify the individual.

In the future, Frank plans to submit the Name/Call of a member requesting

access via email, get Board approval in order to expedite adding the applicant's name to the access list. Then, at the regular BoD meeting, the voting will be reviewed and documented in the BoD minutes.

Miguel asked where the application would be filed. It was suggested that there be a place in the clubroom for that and other club materials information.

Clarence brought up the newsletter editor issue and asked if Ernie wished to continue. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Clarence would assume the duties. This would cut down on passing the inputs around. We thank Ernie and Mandie for all their great work on the newsletter.

Frank will email the board members with a revised operating budget noting that through Miguel's efforts in computer procurement, some adjustments should be made.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 27th, Jim Haney President of the ARRL will give a presentation at the April Telecom meeting

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Clarence MOVED that the meeting be adjourned. Miguel SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED and the meeting was adjourned at 1900h CT.

Respectfully submitted, Clarence Sebesta K5YO - Acting Secretary

Minutes of the April 2004 AARA General Membership Meeting

Tuesday, April 27, 2004 MCI Campbell Creek Building, 2400 North Glenville Drive, Richardson, TX

OPENING AND ROLL CALL

President Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, called the meeting to order at 1733

CDST. Other officers attending the meeting were Executive Vice President Miguel Ylagan, KC5FVJ, Treasurer Al Koch, KB5VSL, and Acting-Secretary Clarence Sebesta, K5YO. Also attending were George Huling, K5GH, Bill Hammon, KA5SOT, Kris Mraz, N5KM, Nancy Krizan, K5NCK, and ARRL President Jim Haynie, W5JDP.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes for the March GMM were passed out to the attendees for review. At the end of the meeting, There being no corrections, Miguel MOVED the minutes be approved and Nancy SECONDED. The minutes were APPROVED.

Kris asked about the membership committee. Due to the secretary vacancy, Frank indicated that several were involve and will continue that effort. The membership was noted to be 23 at present.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Al Koch submitted the current financial statement. There was income of \$54 dues with phone bill and Mark's clubroom expenses.

Frank reported that Alcatel has issues a check for advance funding for the year. Frank said that Christina also said that last years check request were being processed. Frank didn't receive any information if all 4 requisitions are under consideration. Frank said the AARA Board of Directors would review the operating budget and submit it at the May GMM. Financial report was submitted for audit.

VP OPERATION'S REPORT

Acting-VP Operations Mark Dempsky was not present. Frank read and updated highlights from the April BOD meeting report.

Repeater: The repeater team will meet next Monday night, May 3rd, and decide when the repeater can be put

into service at UTD. Frank felt that the repeater was at least 98% ready.

HF Station: The 220 Volt 30 amp to 220 Volt 20 amp adapter is done. The transformer is being checked to see if will work with the HF amplifier. Kris verified that it was the one previously used. The Butternut Vertical has been moved. Maintenance is working on providing a cable.

VHF / UHF Station: The installation for the VHF / UHF antennas are on hold. Maintenance wants to make sure the HF antenna isn't causing any interference before the VHF / UHF antennas are installed.

General: Maintenance is reviewing its lightning protection for PB-7. Mark will try to work with maintenance to make sure are future antenna installation are taken into account.

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT

Programs: Miguel noted lack of response from future program speakers. The May meeting may be a homebrew night, which was well received in the past.

Training: Miguel reported that Training Department has changed the courses to specific training programs only. Therefore, no license or even NMA courses will be offered. He is still looking into using the PB11 training rooms for our use.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Unescorted access to PB7 AARA Clubroom 2004: It has been approved and applications submitted to Security. Frank passed out a few additional applications at the meeting.

Susan G. Komen Race at Alcatel, Saturday, June 5, 2004: There is a need for operators. Alcatel, Komen and Security were extremely pleased

with the professionalism exhibited last year.

NEW BUSINESS

Special Election: At the March meeting, Mark Dempsky was nominated for VP Operations and Clarence Sebesta was nominated for Secretary. Frank asked if there were any additional nominations for VP Operations or Secretary. They're being none, George Huling MOVED that nominations be closed. George then MOVED that the candidates be approved by acclimation. Nancy SECONDED. The MOTION passed.

Photos for CQ Magazine: Frank said that Phil Salas has been authorized to make arrangements to allow CQ Magazine to photograph club station in our clubroom.

OLD BUSINESS (none)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteer Activities: MS150 this weekend – Contact John Galvin N5TIM

Wild Ride May 8th using High Speed Multimedia and Wildflower Festival May 7-9 – Contact Frank kr1zan@arrl.net

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Miguel MOVED that the meeting be adjourned. Al. SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED and the meeting was adjourned at 1757h CT.

Respectfully submitted, Clarence Sebesta K5YO - Secretary

Minutes of the May 2004 AARA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, May 11, 2004 Alcatel, PB7 Club room, 3400 West Plano Parkway, Plano TX

OPENING AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 530 pm. Present were President Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN, Vice President of Operations Mark Dempsky, N5MD, and Secretary Clarence Sebesta, K5YO. Al Koch was away on business and Miguel was ill. Frank noted that a quorum was present.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

The minutes for the April BoD meeting were distributed by email. There being no corrections, the minutes were APPROVED.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The treasurer was away on business but submitted by email: the current financial statement, list of dues paid members, and the 2004 budget vs actual expenses. The check for 2004 funding was received and deposited. There were no other changes to the checking account. Frank is still checking on the 2003 check requests. Financial report was submitted for audit. It was agreed that dues for coop students be considered the same as contract employees.

VP OPERATION'S REPORT

Repeater: The new repeater lacks only checkout of the 220 MHz remote base and the Reverse Patch/DTMF Controller access. As soon as that's complete, we'll setup a workday to move the repeater over to UTD. Ernie Brouwer, KD5MFE, has volunteered to document the repeater, including photographs, manuals, wiring diagrams, etc.

HF Station: The 208 to 240 transformer will work with the HF amplifier. Maintenance has the new cable for the Butternut Vertical. Mark is working on setting up a date to install the cable.

VHF / UHF Station: The installation for the VHF / UHF antennas are on hold. Maintenance wants to make sure the HF antenna isn't causing any interference before the VHF / UHF antennas are installed.

Internet: Mark is looking into if a VPN can be setup between the ham clubroom and someone's home network. If this can be done, we might be able to use this to provide an Internet connection for the clubroom.

General: Maintenance is reviewing its lighting protection for PB-7. I will try to work with maintenance to make sure are future antenna installation are taken into account.

Computers: Mark agreed to look at the two desktop computers that we received to see their status for use. Frank was going to verify the location of the laptop.

EXECUTIVE VP'S REPORT

Meeting Room: Miguel has scheduled PB11-1204 classroom for the remaining AARA meetings this year, beginning May 25th, 2004. This room is best accessed via the East Lobby of PB11. This way we will easy access to VCR, TV and PC with PC Projector. We will need to discuss the November meeting date - as we are scheduled to fall Thanksgiving week. Miguel proposed we move it forward to November 16th.

Programs: Frank has found our speaker for May - It's Charles Penry, WA5VHU / YI9VHU, fresh back from a stint with Halliburton in Iraq. He will share some photos and stories of his work trip, plus some Ham Radio Experiences.

Training: The board briefly discussed training options. It was agreed that the "Get your Ham Radio License in One Day" course as used by a California club would be well received. (Ed – see http://www.w6nbc.com/lday.html)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Special Election: At the April GMM, Clarence Sebesta, K5YO, was elected Secretary to complete the 2004 term, and, Mark Dempsky, N5MD, was

elected Vice President, Operations to complete the 2004 term. The Board realignment was discussed at the April Board of Director's meeting.

CQ Photographs Club Room: Larry Mulvehill, WB2ZPI, of CO Magazine photographed the new AARA Repeater on Saturday, May 8th for possible use in a future CO Magazine article. Phil Salas, AD5X, arranged for the photographs for a possible article recognizing Ham Clubs in the Telecom Corridor. Permission to escort the photographer, with camera equipment, to take photos and grant access to the AARA Club Room was approved by the AARA Board of Directors and Alcatel Security.

Field Day 2004: Frank proposed we operate our club station for Field Day as a Class 1D (permanent station) or Class 1E (same as class D, but using emergency power for transmitters and receivers -- we could use batteries). We will need employees on site at all times in order to accommodate escorts. Those of us with unescorted access can get to the station, but it's best if others are properly signed in. Full rules on the ARRL web site www.arrl.org. Field Day is Noon Saturday to Noon Sunday, June 26-27, 2004

Unescorted Access: Frank expects this will be in place by May 15th and all members who have submitted requests and been approved will be notified by email.

OLD BUSINESS

2004 Operating Budget: Each item was reviewed to determine if the item was still relevant, reasonably estimated and if it would take place during 2004. It was desired to include the special project of a satellite antenna system within the budget and keep a reasonable carryover for next year. It was decided that the budget couldn't be finalized until the 2003 funding was resolved. Frank MOVED

that the budget discussion be tabled. Mark SECONDED. MOTION passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Reimbursement: Frank MOVED that Frank Krizan be reimbursed for pizza and drinks for the February 2004 Telecom Corridor Joint meeting in the amount of \$80. The receipts were submitted and lost and if found, a correction will be made to the amount reimbursed. Clarence SECONDED. The MOTION passed.

Unescorted access to PB7 AARA Clubroom: Frank MOVED that the AARA Board of Directors approve unescorted access to the clubroom in PB7 for George Huling, K5GH. Mark SECONDED the motion. The motion was APPROVED.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Susan G. Komen Race at Alcatel, Saturday, June 5th The Komen Race for the Cure for Collin County will be held on the Alcatel campus in Plano on Saturday, June 5th. About 40 Hams are needed to staff all the communication posts. Briefing at Alcatel at 6 a.m. and duties begin shortly thereafter. Most operators are released by 10 a.m. with only a few needed until 11 a.m. Volunteer to KR1ZAN at frank@krizan.org

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mark MOVED that the meeting be adjourned. Clarence SECONDED. The motion was APPROVED and the meeting was adjourned at 635 pm.

Respectfully submitted, Clarence Sebesta K5YO - Secretary

WHAT IS THIS?



Is this

- 1. A cattle prod for use by the membership committee.
- 2. The perfect antenna small, efficient, low noise, and produces no local rf interference.
- 3. A left over April fool's joke.
- 4. All of the above.
- 5. None of the above.

You'll have to come to the next meeting to find out. (Bring cash/check in case the answer is '1'.) Hint: the pictured inventor is a former roommate of the new secretary.

-73's de K5YO

AARA Club Information

AARA General Meetings are held at 5:30 pm of the 4th Tuesday except for June, November and December. On odd numbered months, the club meets in PB11-1204 (NEW LOCATION) southwest corner of Plano Parkway and Independence, Plano. On even number months, the club meets with the Telecom Corridor ham clubs at the MCI Campbell Creek Bldg, 2400 N Glenville Dr, Richardson.

AARA Board Meetings are held at 5:30 pm on the 2nd Tuesday in the AARA clubroom in PB7. Guests welcome.

Clubroom - PB7-20104 972 477-5079

Repeater: W5VV 442.8 MHz (+/110.9)



Sponsored by Alcatel

Co-Sponsor for Venturing Crew 73





American Radio Relay League Affiliated Club

President: Frank Krizan KR1ZAN kr1zan@arrl.net

Exec VP: Miguel Ylagan – KC5FVJ Miguel Ylagal@Alcatel.com

VP Operations: Mark Dempsky N5MD
Mark.Dmpsky@Alcatel.com

Treasurer: Al Koch - KB5VSL

Allen.Koch@Alcatel.com

Secretary: Clarence Sebesta K5YO

K5yo@arrl.net

Other Positions:

Acting Newsletter Editor:

Clarence Sebesta K5YO

Webmaster: Eric Wolf, KG4VPV

kg4vpv@arrl.net

Repeater Committee Chairman:

Frank Krizan, KR1ZAN

W5VV Station Trustee:

Mark Dempsky, N5MD

AARA m/s PB7-AARA 3400 W Plano Parkway Plano, TX 75075

